

Nashville Union.

For Freedom and Nationality.

N. C. STURGES, Editor.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, DEC. 17, 1862.

ANALOGIES.—Any deficiency in the paper this morning, must be attributed to the continued indisposition of the Editor.

The News.

We have been kindly furnished the following items of interest, from a source of undoubted veracity and reliability:

SEPT. DAVIS reviewed the Confederate forces at Murfreesboro' on Saturday last, and left on the evening of the same day for Mobile, with the intention of visiting the army of the Mississippi.

JOHN MORGAN, was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General last Sunday, and married Sunday night by General Bishop Polk, to Miss ALICE, daughter of Hon. CHAR. BEAUMONT, of Murfreesboro'.

There was some skirmishing in front to-day with a detachment of General NEGLEY'S division, a few shells were thrown in among the boys, but nobody hurt. There was no development along the line to-day, but everything is represented to be quiet and tranquil. There is a large amount of miscellaneous "grape-vine" circulating, but as we cannot find any one willing to vouch for its correctness, we decline to give it the benefit of our circulation.

Death of Wm. H. Polk.

We are pained to announce the death of the Hon. Wm. H. Polk, of Columbia, Maury county, Tennessee. Mr. Polk had just returned from the North and reached this city, and was stopping at the St. Cloud Hotel. He died after a brief illness, at 2 o'clock, night before last. His death was sudden and wholly unexpected. Mr. Polk was a native of North Carolina, and was the youngest full brother of the Ex-President, JAMES K. POLK. He was a lawyer by profession, but of late years mingled in State and national politics, filling several honorable positions in the State. He was, in 1844, *charge d'affaires* at Naples. He had been prominent in the Democratic party of the State, and, in years gone, had participated in the political conflicts of the day.

He was elected by the people of Maury to the Convention of 1861, to take into consideration the question of the secession of Tennessee. This Convention never met. He became the Conservative candidate against ISHAM G. HARRIS for Governor in 1861, having previously served in the Legislature of the State, and in the Congress of the United States. Mr. Polk was no less distinguished in the social circle, genial, warm hearted, eminently social, he was much beloved by his friends. He leaves a wife and children to mourn a husband and father; friends who will deeply lament his loss, and a State and Nation demanding his services and his counsels.

The Rights of War.

The following extract from a letter of WASHINGTON to Governor TAYLOR, written November 1775, shows the views entertained of the proper way of dealing with traitors in a time of public danger:

As it is now very apparent that we have nothing to depend upon in the present contest but our own strength, care, firmness and union, should not the same measures be adopted in your and every other Government on the continent? Would it not be prudent to seize on those traitors who have been, are, and that we know will be active against us? Why should persons who are preying upon the vitals of their country be suffered to stalk at large, whilst we know they will do us every mischief in their power? These, sir, are points I beg leave to submit to your serious consideration.

While we would condemn the arrest of persons who have not deserved it by their active sympathy or plotting with the enemy, and any conduct of this exercise of authority which exposed innocent persons to arrest, we have no hesitation in asserting the right of the Government to seize persons in time of war who have been thus guilty, and to deal with them by military law. The right to do this belongs to the right to take the lives of the same persons in battle. That is the very ultimate of arbitrary treatment. But there should be a process of examining these cases, that the guilty may be verified, and that there be no risk incurred of holding the innocent or the foolish and inconsiderable in confinement.—*Cin. Gazette.*

The bankers in this city yesterday were paying the notes of the three old banks of Tennessee at 5 per cent discount and the notes of other Southern banks at 25 to 30 per cent discount.—*Lou. Jour.*

Letter from Parson Brownlow.

From the Philadelphia Press.

CINCINNATI, December 8, 1862.

To the Editor of the Press:

SIR: The President of the United States, in his annual message a year ago, urged upon Congress the building of a railroad, for military purposes, from some point in the interior of Kentucky to Cumberland Gap—or rather, from some point on the Ohio river to some point in East Tennessee. Congress failed to endorse this recommendation, and thus the matter dropped. I am sorry that the President has not revived his scheme, and urged it upon Congress a second time. Had it been carried out, it would have been constructed in six months, and during the past six months would have saved to the Government double the cost of construction.

When the rebel army took possession of Lexington, they got, as they assert, one million of dollars' worth of stores, besides arms sufficient to arm fifteen thousand men! They also got immense quantities of ammunition and clothing, hogs, horses, mules and cattle. During the past summer and fall our army of fifteen thousand, at Cumberland Gap, had to be supplied with everything by wagon train, over a road of one hundred and thirty miles, half of which was almost impassable. It was difficult, at any one time, to travel over three consecutive miles of the road without finding a dead mule, or horse, or the remains of a wagon. After a time, it became impossible to get forage in the mountains, and hundreds of Government mules were allowed to stray off and die. The amount thus lost would have built the road recommended by the President. Had the Kentucky politicians pressed the construction of the road it would have been built, and if built, it would have prevented the late destructive invasion of their State by Bragg's army.

Had this road been constructed, it would have enabled the Federal army to take possession of the Virginia and Tennessee road, cut off the supplies of the rebels, and thus have given them more to do at home than they could have done. And I now predict that, until that road is in the possession of the Federal army this rebellion will not be crushed out. It is the back-bone of the rebellion, and it is alone the means of keeping up the formidable army that annoys our forces on the Potomac.

Many routes have been suggested, but it should go from Nicholasville to Cumberland Gap, thence to Morristown, on the line of the Tennessee and Virginia Railroad, only forty-five miles east of Knoxville. At Morristown we should connect with a railroad, already far advanced, running via Asheville, North Carolina. A survey of the routes will demonstrate the truth of all I say. I have lived there, and travelled over the ground for thirty years.

There seems to be a wide-spread impression in the country that active operations in the field must virtually suspend with the setting in of cold winter weather. If such a thing is contemplated—which I do not credit for a moment—it is a very foolish determination. The winter season is the time, above all others, to press the rebels. We are prepared for winter, and they are not. Besides, our most brilliant victories were achieved during the "dead of winter." The battle of Mill Spring was fought in January; Fort Donelson was taken in February, in the midst of a terrible snow-storm. The successes of Burnside, in North Carolina were achieved in the "dead of winter," or between November and March.

Some of the bloodiest battles of the Revolution were fought during the winter months. The battle of Trenton came off on a cold Christmas, while the battle of Princeton was fought on the 3d of January. And no period of the great struggle in 1812-15, was more fruitful of heroic achievements than the "dead of winter." General Jackson fought the battle of New Orleans on the 8th of January. Let us, therefore, press the army into battle. We are at an expense of more than one million per day, and it stands as in hand to improve every season.

If we look to other times and countries, we shall find that war and winter have gone hand in hand. Gustavus Adolphus, during his great campaign in Germany, denounced "winter quarters" as effeminate. Charles the 12th of Sweden, bore his victorious banners through the deep and interminable snows of a northern winter. Napoleon crossed the Alps in January, and gained the brilliant victory of Austerlitz in December. Russia has done her best and most successful fighting in winter, in that cold and inhospitable climate.

Our army should not be forced into a fight because it is winter, or at any point until it is ready, but it should nowhere remain idle during the winter months. Inaction will, as it always has done, beget demoralization—lead to drunkenness, and to straggling through the country by thousands, as is now the case, with or without furloughs. Going into "winter quarters" will corrupt the troops, and discourage the people, inclining them to act with the corrupt and designing men at the North, who are for a peace even at the expense of the honor of the loyal States. All this, I have no doubt, the Government fully understands. I call attention to the subject because of what is saying by outsiders—not because I am aware that the question of "winter quarters" has ever been entertained in official quarters, or is likely to be seriously considered.

The war news in this section is not as cheering this morning as could be desired. Despatches received here yesterday bring the disagreeable intelligence that a whole brigade of our army, con-

sisting of three regiments and a battery, under Dumont, were surprised at Hartsville, Sumner county, Tennessee, and within less than forty miles of Nashville, on the 11th inst., by John Morgan's guerrillas, and after a short contest, our men surrendered to the enemy. Our men were encamped at Hartsville, with a perfect knowledge that Morgan was in the region roundabout, and with the further knowledge that the rebels had a large force at Murfreesboro', less than 30 miles distant, and still they suffered themselves to be surprised. A severe investigation of this disgraceful affair ought to be had, if it would not increase the expenses of the war, and result as most other investigations have done—ending in smoke!

Refugees of intelligence and reliable characters, are still coming in from East Tennessee, bringing with them late and reliable news from that ill-fated country. There are very few rebel troops in all Upper East Tennessee. All the available forces in that country have been ordered to Chattanooga, and thence to Tullahoma and Murfreesboro'. An order had been issued for all the cavalry in East Tennessee to report to Knoxville, to be dismounted. The rebels of East Tennessee say they intend to make their grand stand in Middle Tennessee, and to give us one general fight, either at Murfreesboro', Tullahoma, or Winchester.

Great destitution prevails in that country, Union families having been robbed of all they have. Thousands of East Tennesseans are scouting in the mountains, south of the Holston river, determined to suffer any privations rather than be conscripted, and made to fight in a cause they hate—the cause of the rebellion against the Union. They are anxiously awaiting the approach of the Union army, as their only hope of relief. Meanwhile, the rebels fear the approach of Rosecrans, and if whipped by him intend to abandon East Tennessee, and fall back upon the Cotton States. All accounts agree that the rebels generally, and their troops in particular, are sick and tired of the war, and want it closed out. Thousands of them would be willing to have peace on any terms, so as to get out of the conflict.

The Buell Court of Inquiry, it is understood, has adjourned to Louisville, and, after setting there a few days, is expected to go to Nashville, where after hearing other testimony, and having one or two other dances, will wind out in smoke. These useless courts of inquiry are costing the Government hundreds of thousands, and resulting in no practical good to the army or the country.

Business is very brisk in Cincinnati, large army supplies going forward to the armies at Rosecrans and Grant. A great deal of smuggling is going on, and a great deal of money is being made, at the expense of the Government and of justice.

Mr. Editor, I have been writing you occasionally, and posting you and your readers up as to matters and things generally in the localities where I have circulated. Your columns will be occupied with the more interesting proceedings of Congress, and I incline, this terrible weather, to go into "winter quarters," and therefore you may not hear from me again very shortly. With kind regards for you, personally, and a desire that your excellent paper may yield you a merited profit, I have the honor to be, very truly, W. G. BROWNLOW.

BLOSSOMS AND FRUITS OF SECESSION.—The Washington correspondent of the New York Commercial Advertiser says:—

Two years have passed away since the first secession blasts came floating northward, and we were honored by a call from a delegation of embryo Escuepians, who had been studying medicine and surgery in your city, but who were hastening homeward, to practice amputations on the battle-field.

The long-haired youngsters were all out of funds, and their respective Congressmen were somewhat reluctantly forced to loan them the necessary amounts of cash for their traveling expenses, while the dark-eyed maidens of their sunny clime decked each one with a flaunting secession badge.

Off they went, in high feather, and thus far but one has returned, a young Virginian, who was yesterday escorted into the city, and honored with lodgings in the old Capitol. Unfortunate youth, his broad-brimmed felt hat of last year has been replaced by a stolen soldier's cap; his black broad cloth has given way to a dirty butternut-colored homespun; his patent leathers are superseded by dirty clumsy brogans; and his embroidered shirt, with its studs, has no succeeding garment. So much for one of these "original Jacobs," the seceded students.

STEEL SHOT SILVERED.—The Select Committee of Ordnance, as well as the Iron Plate Committee of Great Britain, have now under consideration the advisability of adopting "steel shot alloyed with silver" (the L-3000th part). This alloy produces the very hardest description of steel, which, it is said, will penetrate any amount of iron or backing a ship can be made to carry with *vide*. The inventor states that steel shot alloyed with this portion of silver will not be more expensive, as a much lighter shot will be used.

Five hundred and forty-three vessels have been seized by the blockading squadrons, worth, with their cargoes, \$40,000,000! Verily, this is a splendid record, and yet it but faintly tells the story of the actual amount of service rendered to the good cause by this class of navy.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Up to midnight no intelligence of importance had been received from the army. There was occasional firing during the day, but of little consequence in results. The taking of several rifle pits yesterday evidently gave rise to the report of the first line of the enemy's works having been taken.

A number of wounded arrived to-night and were conveyed to the several hospitals. Another boat load is on the way.

New York, Dec. 15.—The Herald says of Saturday's battle: It raged fiercely through the entire day, and even after darkness. Fighting in our immediate front and right, and beyond Fredericksburg. It was carried on by Sumner's division.

Shortly after 9 o'clock, the second corps, Gen. Couch, moved out from the upper part of the city with a strong detachment of skirmishers. The enemy yielded gradually, though they contested our progress with great stubbornness, and for some time the rattle of musketry was incessant.

At the same time this movement commenced, the batteries of this division, which was stationed on bluffs across the river, opened with shell to cover our advance.

The rebel infantry, having fallen back to their first line of intrenchments and rifle pits, their batteries opened with a rapid fire upon our columns, which had now come to a temporary halt, awaiting result of the artillery fighting.

For some time our artillery on the bluffs kept up a heavy fire on the rebel batteries with much better success.

The batteries on Taylor's Hill, nearly opposite Falmouth, were finally silenced. During this time the rebel artillery was almost entirely devoted to shelling our advanced troops.

Hancock's division had the advance, supported by the other division of the corps, while the 9th corps, Wilcox, remained under arms in the town in readiness to advance.

Soon after the whole corps deployed into line of battle, and moved forward to attack and storm the rebel's right batteries. A terrible shower of shell, grape, and shrapnel tore through their bleeding ranks, notwithstanding which they steadily pushed on to the rifle pits within a short distance of the first line of entrenchments.

From the former they drove the rebels, making prisoners of some, while the remainder took refuge behind earthworks. This was accomplished after the most heroic and long continued efforts, under a murderous fire.

Unable to hold out against the terrible fire they now encountered, they now finally retired in good order, carrying away their wounded.

They fell back to their original line of pickets, thus holding the ground which they first occupied, and which they held until morning when they were relieved by Stoneman's command.

Just before the advance of Couch's corps, heavy firing and dense smoke on the left indicated that Franklin was advancing upon and had engaged the enemy's right flank.

To open communication with him, therefore Wilcox detailed his division under Burns, and sent it to the left by the edge of the river, with instructions to advance under cover of the river bank, until he could place himself in close proximity to Franklin's right.

After hard fighting, Couch's division, being unable to carry the rebel works, the tremendous fire from the batteries rendered it necessary for them to retire, which they did when the order had been given for the third time.

It was now dark, and the division fell back to its original position, after being six hours under fire. After severe fighting on Franklin's left, with varied success until dark, the relative position of our forces was about the same as in the morning, except that we had gained a half mile or more on the left.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, December 15, 11 A. M.

Considerable firing occurred yesterday between the advance of both armies.—The rebels showed a disposition to move on Franklin's forces, but did not. Some skirmishing took place this morning, with considerable artillery firing.

A Strange Business.

Capt. Johnson, of the 8th Kentucky cavalry, with twenty men, made a visit to Clarksville at 1 P. M., on the 9th, passed through, went above, returned at 8 or 10 P. M., and, crossing the river, rode five or six miles in the direction of Charlotte, but, hearing nothing of an enemy, went back to his encampment.

The commander, at Russellville, heard that Col. Woodward, with 4,000 rebels, was at Clarksville at 10 P. M., on the 9th—the same day and the same hour when Captain Johnson and his twenty men were there—and immediately despatched a courier with orders to Colonel Shackelford to move his entire command to Russellville forthwith! Colonel Shackelford obeyed the orders, but there was no enemy this side of Cumberland river! It does seem to us that our military commanders should find means to protect themselves from being imposed on by the base fabrications or idle rumors calculated to betray them into such blunders.

Henry L. Wilson, of Hardin county, Ohio, was recently convicted of the murder of James Owens, and sentenced to the penitentiary for life. He exhibited the most reckless indifference during the trial, and when the sentence was pronounced he broke the solemn silence by exclaiming: "Bully for you, Judge."

Egyptian Engineers.

The correspondent of the London Examiner, at the Great Exhibition, England, thus relates an account of barbarian engineering:

"I remember, when coming down the Nile in 1847, hearing a capital story of Egyptian engineering in those days. Mohammed Ali was the first to introduce steam navigation on the Nile, and determined to have the natives instructed in the mystery of working the engines, a small steamer, of ten-horse power was, after many lessons from an English engineer, handed over to a native crew. On the first voyage thereafter, a leaking took place, in consequence of the lower joint of the safety valve giving way. The natives applied the universal panacea for all wounds and bruises, a handful of Nile mud; this proving inefficient, a second and a third dose of the same stuff was applied; finally bricks and mud were built over it, but all to no purpose; at last, when quite a pyramid of bricks and mud failed, and the steam continued to rush out worse than ever, they gave it up in despair, 'Allah! Bismillah!' they exclaimed, 'who can contend with fate?' So saying, they leaped overboard and swam to the bank, where they quietly smoked their pipes until the fire went out and the steam went down."

A VETERAN MILLER.—In reply to certain questions proposed by the Census officers with regard to the business of JOHN KELLY, of Massachusetts, the venerable miller makes the following interesting response:

"My mill is what is called a custom mill; I grind for farmers and others. I have not employed any help up to this date, June 1st, 1860, having tended this mill seventy-two years. I have never rode in the cars or a steamboat. I shall be eighty-six years old next December."

JOHN KELLY.

"Blackstone, Worcester co., Mass."

A NEW PEACE PROPOSITION.—Orpheus C. Kerr writes from Washington the following account of another peace proposition:

"The Confederacy hastily put on a pair of white cotton gloves, and says he: 'Am I addressing the Democratic organization?'"

"You address the large Kentucky branch," says the Conservative chap, pulling out his ruffles.

"Then," says the Confederacy, "I am prepared to make an indirect proposition for peace. My name is Mr. Lamb, by which title the Democratic organization has always known the injured Confederacy, and I propose the following terms. Hostilities shall at once cease, and the two armies be consolidated under the title of the Confederate States Forces. The war debts of the North and South shall be so debited that the North may be able to pay them without confusion. An election for a new President shall at once be held, everybody voting save those who have shown animosity to the sunny South. France shall be driven out of Mexico by the consolidated armies, the expense being so managed that the North must pay it without further trouble. Upon these terms the Confederacy will become a peaceful fellow man."

SPRITS AT WASHINGTON.—Artemus Wain, in delivering a lecture at Detroit, the other day, made the following observations:

Speaking of the discoveries and inventions of the present age, he would mention Spiritualism as one of the most important. At one of the "circles" recently held at the White House, in Washington, the question was asked if the spirit of Andrew Jackson was present? The reply was—"No, not much." It was then asked—"Has the spirit of Jackson been here recently?" to which the reply was given that the spirit of Jackson had not been within a hundred miles of Washington for a good many years.

Commercial.

MONEY MARKET.

Office of the Louisville Journal, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1862.

The buying rates for gold was placed by the bank yesterday at 30 cent premium and the selling price at 32. Silver in demand at 21 1/2 cent premium buying and 23 1/2 cent selling. Discounted Notes were wanted at 24 1/2 cent premium. The bankers were offering 25 cents on the dollar for the notes of the old banks of Tennessee, and discounted the notes of other Southern banks at 25 to 30 per cent. There was very little doing in Eastern exchange, the brokers buying at 1/2 cent discount and selling at par to 1/2 cent premium. The exceedingly inclement weather yesterday limited transactions in the grocery and produce market.

New Advertisements.

THEATRE.

N. B. DUFFIELD, Manager. CLAUDE C. HAMILTON, Stage Manager. S. T. SIMONS, Treasurer.

Wednesday Evening, Dec. 17, 1862.

RICHARD III.

DANCE, MASTER RICHARD.

NATURE AND PHILOSOPHY!

629 In rehearsal, THE MIDNIGHT WATCH.

EXCHANGE.

Sight Checks on Louisville BOUGHT AND SOLD.

A. G. SANFORD & CO.

27 N. 2nd St. and MONEY DEPOSIT.

5 College Street, New York Bank

W. Mat Brown & Co.

GENERAL

BUSINESS AGENCY,

FOR SELLING

REAL & PERSONAL ESTATE,

Renting of Houses, Etc.

PROMPT ATTENTION GIVEN TO ALL business entrusted to their care. 209-211, No. 16 Cherry street, between Tuten and Deaderick. [Dec16-1m]

FOUND,

ON MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 16, 1862, a small Pocket-Book, containing a solitary, which he can have by calling at this office, describing it, and paying for this advertisement. [Dec16-1m]

LOST,

ON THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 12, 1862, a POCKET-BOOK, containing \$20.00, also three Notes payable to myself. The finder will be paid a liberal reward by returning the same to Co. A, 12th Ohio, York. [Dec16-2m]

NEW GOODS.

BOOTS & SHOES.

F. H. FRENCH.

NO. 21, PUBLIC SQUARE.

HAS JUST RECEIVED A LARGE AND splendid stock of

LADIES' MISSES' and CHILDRENS'

Only Kid, Goat, Glove Kid, and Lasting

BOOTS, BALMORALS, & GAITERS,

Comprising everything desirable for the season, and of the best work and style.

MEN'S, BOYS, YOUTHS, and CHILDRENS'

Boots, Shoes, & Balmorals,

OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS.

MEN'S HATS

OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

All of which will be sold at the lowest market price

Dec 16-1m

WANTED FOR CASH,

Cotton Rags,

Hemp and Damaged Cotton,

Old Rope and Gunnies,

(In large or small lots.)

INGHAM, SWIFT & CO.

FRENCH & REIDS,

Corner of Market and Clark streets

[Dispatch copy.]

BOARD WANTED

A GENTLEMAN, WITH HIS WIFE AND SON, wish to obtain Board for the Winter season. One good bedroom and one small room wanted. Must not be far from the Post-office.

Address "LOCK DRAWER, No. 94"

Dec16-2m

FOR RENT,

THE FOUR HOUSES, CORNER BROAD

and Market streets, occupied respectively by J. Stretch, Druggist, Theo. Hobson, J. Longenecker, and the one adjoining, now vacant. Also, an excellent DWELLING-HOUSE, on Sumner street, the one occupied by Martin & Hodge, and the one adjoining.

Quinquany can be had from the first of January for the year 1863. For particulars, apply to

W. G. MANSKY, Agent.

Dec16-2m

CRUSHED SUET.—5 Bbls. LOVERING'S BEST,

5 Bbls. NEW ORLEANS SUGAR,

5 Bbls. TAIN SOAP,

5 Bbls. STAR CANDLES,

1 Kg. SOJA,

5 Kg. COFFEE.

For sale by WM. LYON.

CORN AND OATS.

WANTED TO PURCHASE LARGE QUANTITIES of CORN AND OATS, for which Cash will be paid, at Quartermaster's Office, No. 35 Market street.

NASHVILLE, Dec. 15th, 1862.

JOHN M. HALE, Capt. and A. Q. M.

FOR SALE,

A FINE SADDLE HORSE, IN FULL

edging, accustomed to driving, heavy and gentle. 200 Equine at

TOHIAN'S LIVERY STABLE,

College st., bet. Church and Bro.

Dec16-1m

LOST,

ON THURSDAY NIGHT, A LARGE

Pocket-Book, containing my Description

two List and two or three Letters.

The finder will confer a favor by leaving it at this Office. The papers are of no value to any one but myself.

Dec16-1m

JAR. W. HANSON.

NEGRO GOODS.

I HAVE A FULL STOCK of

FILLED CLOTH,

JEANS and LINSEY,

Suitable for Negroes, for which Orders are solicited

by

Dec 16-1m

HORSES WANTED,

CAVALRY HORSES WANTED, for

prices. They must be from five to eight

years old, fifteen hands high, and of dark color.

200 Equine at the stable of J. H. A. HENDERSON,

Cherry street, where either of the undersigned may be found.

Dec 16-1m